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Applicant : HITACHI TECHNO ENG CO LTD

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Inventor :

10 ISHIDA SHIGERU

SANKAI HARUO

YONEDA FUKUO

HACHIMAN SATOSHI

KAWASUMI YUKIHIRO

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[Abstract]

PURPOSE: To apply and form plural paste patterns of a desired form on a substrate simultaneously, with high precision and at high speed by making the control of the opposite distance between a nozzle and the substrate be
20 independent of that of the horizontal relative movement of the two.

CONSTITUTION: This applicator is provided with nozzles 1a, 1b, optical range finders 3a, 3b for individually measuring the opposite distance between an discharge port of each nozzle and the surface of a substrate 7, tables 6, 8 controlled by a main controller 14a and for horizontally and relatively moving each
25 nozzle and the substrate 7, and an auxiliary controller 14b for individually

controlling the opposite distance between the discharge port of each nozzle and the surface of the substrate 7 by using data of each optical range finder 3a, 3b on the relative movement.

[Claims]

1. A paste applicator for laying a substrate on a table to face each paste discharge port of nozzles, changing a relative position relation between the nozzles and the substrate with discharging a paste stored in a paste syringe on the substrate through the paste discharge port, and drawing a paste pattern with a
5 desired shape on the substrate, the paste applicator comprising:

a plurality of nozzles;

a plurality of measurement units for individually measuring a facing interval between the paste discharge port of each nozzle and a surface of the
10 substrate;

a movement unit for relatively moving each nozzle and the substrate in a longitudinal direction; and

a control unit for individually controlling the facing interval between the paste discharge port of each nozzle and the surface of the substrate by using
15 measured data from each measurement unit in the relative movement.

2. The paste applicator of claim 1, wherein the plurality of nozzles individually discharge the paste on a plurality of the substrates laid on the table, and simultaneously the movement unit relatively moves each nozzle and each
20 substrate in the longitudinal direction by the same amount and at the same time.

3. The paste applicator of claim 1 or 2, wherein the control unit is provided with a storage unit for storing the measured data from each measurement unit.

[Title of the Invention]

Paste applicator

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

5 [Field of the Invention]

The present invention is related to a paste applicator for drawing a plurality of paste patterns having a desirable shape on a substrate at the same time by discharging a paste on the substrate positioned on a table through a plurality of nozzles and relatively moving the substrate and the nozzles.

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[Description of the Prior Art]

An example for a paste applicator for drawing a paste pattern on a substrate using a discharge patterning technique, for which a substrate positioned on a table faces a nozzle fixed to a front end of a paste syringe for storing the
15 paste, and the paste is discharged from a paste discharge port of the nozzle and at least one of the nozzle and the substrate is moved in a longitudinal direction to change a relative-position relation therebetween, is disclosed in Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2-52742.

This paste applicator includes one nozzle and a controller for controlling a
20 position of the nozzle or a substrate, by which a resistance paste is discharged on an insulating substrate used as the substrate through a paste discharge port positioned at a front end of the nozzle, to form a resistance paste pattern with a desired shape on the insulating substrate.

25 [Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

However, in general, some concavo-convex exists on a surface of the substrate on which a paste pattern is supposed to be drawn. As a result, when high precision is required for a drawing width or a drawing height as well as a portion where the patterned paste is drawn, the nozzle and the substrate are relatively moved in a longitudinal direction and a facing distance between the nozzle and the surface of the substrate is measured to control the distance therebetween to be within a desired area. In the prior art, such operations are all controlled by one controller, which causes difficulty in the control therefor. As a result, a patterning speed is lowered and a fabricating speed or an output is easily determined by this paste patterning process in fabrication facilities for massive production. Therefore, in order to increase productivity, a plurality of paste applicators must be installed. However, in this case, producing lines are complicated, and spaces for fabrication facilities must be enlarged, which results in increase of product prices due to increase of initial cost.

Therefore, in order to solve problems of the prior art, an object of the present invention is to provide a paste applicator capable of simultaneously drawing a plurality of paste patterns with a desired shape on a substrate with high precision at a high speed.

[Means for Solving the Problem]

To achieve the above object of the present invention, a paste applicator by which a substrate is positioned on a table to face a paste discharge port of each nozzle, a paste received in a paste syringe is discharged onto the substrate from the discharge port and simultaneously a relative position relation between the nozzle and the substrate is changed, and a paste pattern having a desired shape

is patterned on the substrate, the paste applicator including: a plurality of nozzles;
a plurality of measurement units for individually measuring a facing interval
(distance) between a paste discharge port of each nozzle and a surface of the
substrate; a movement unit for relatively moving each nozzle and the substrate in
5 a longitudinal direction; and a control unit for individually controlling the facing
interval (distance) between the paste discharge port of each nozzle and the
surface of the substrate by using the measured data of each measurement unit
during the relative movement.

In the present invention, the movement unit for relatively moving each
10 nozzle and the substrate in the longitudinal direction differs from the control unit
for individually controlling the facing interval between the paste discharge port of
each nozzle and the surface of the substrate, wherein the facing interval can be
controlled independent of controlling the relative movement in the longitudinal
direction, whereby a measurement period by each measurement unit is set to be
15 shortened to increase the number of times for measurement, which leads to a
control of the facing interval with high accuracy. As a result, the paste can be
discharged on the substrate by making each nozzle follow concavo-convex of the
surface of the substrate which the nozzles respectively face, thereby obtaining a
plurality of paste patterns with a desired shape at the same time.

20

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be
explained with reference to attached drawings.

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view illustrating one embodiment of a
25 paste applicator according to the present invention. In this drawing, 1a and 1b

denote nozzles, 2a and 2b denote paste syringes, 3a and 3b denote optical range finder, 4a and 4b denote Z-axis tables, 5 denotes an X-axis table, 6 denotes a Y-axis table, 7 denotes a substrate on which paste patterns are patterned, 8 denotes a θ -axis table, 9 denotes a mounting unit, 10 denotes a Z-axis table supporter, 11a and 11b denote image-identifying cameras, 12a and 12b denote nozzle support units, 13 denotes a sucking base for absorbing and fixing the substrate 7, 14a denotes a main controller, 14b denotes an auxiliary controller, 15 denotes an image processor, 16 denotes an external storage device, 17 denotes an image monitor, 18 denotes a display for displaying a condition processed by both controllers 14a and 14b, 19 denotes a keyboard, 20a and 20b respectively denotes lens barrels of the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b, 21a and 21c to 21e denote servomotors, and 22 denotes a camera supporter. Furthermore, in order to avoid inconvenience of the drawing, X-axis table and Y-axis table of the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b with respect to the Z-axis table supporter 10 are not shown in the drawing.

In the same drawing, the X-axis table 5 is fixed onto the mounting unit 9, and the Y-axis table 6 is mounted on the X-axis table 5 to be movable in the X-axis direction. The θ -axis table 8 is mounted on the Y-axis table 6 to be movable and rotatable in the Y-axis direction, and the sucking base 13 is fixed onto the θ -axis table 8. The substrate 7, for instance, is sucked and fixed onto the sucking base 13 so that each line of the substrate is to be parallel in directions of X-axis and Y-axis.

The substrate 7 mounted on the sucking base 13 can move toward each direction of X-axis and Y-axis by driving the main controller 14a. That is, when the servomotor 21a is driven by the main controller 14a, the Y-axis table 6 moves to

the X-axis direction and thusly the substrate 7 is moved to the X-axis direction. Additionally, when the servomotor 21b indicated in R>3 as shown in Figure 3 is driven by the main controller 14a, the θ -axis table 8 moves to the Y-axis direction and thusly the substrate 7 moves to the Y-axis direction.

5 Therefore, when the Y-axis table 6 and the θ -axis table 8 move as much as an arbitrary distance, respectively, by the main controller 14a, the substrate 7 moves as much as an arbitrary distance toward a certain direction within a surface parallel to the mounting unit 9. In addition, θ -axis table 8 can be rotated as much as a certain amount toward the θ -axis direction from its center by the servomotor
10 21e.

 The Z-axis table supporter 10 is installed on the mounting unit 9, and the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b are installed on the Z-axis table supporter 10 to be movable in the Z-axis direction (i.e., a upper and lower direction). One Z-axis table 4a of the two tables has thereon the nozzle 1a, the paste syringe 2a, or the optical
15 range finder 3a, while the other Z-axis table 4b has thereon the nozzle 1b, the paste syringe 2b, or the optical range finder 3b. These Z-axis tables 4a and 4b are driven to move in the Z-axis direction by the auxiliary controller 14b. That is, when the servomotors 21c and 21d are driven by the auxiliary controller 14b, the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b move to the Z-axis direction, and accordingly the nozzles 1a and
20 1b, the paste syringes 2a and 2b, or the optical range finders 3a and 3b move toward the Z-axis direction. Furthermore, the nozzles 1a and 1b are installed at each front end of the paste syringes 2a and 2b, however, have a short distance from each lower end of the paste syringes 2a and 2b through the support units 12a and 12b having a connection portion, respectively.

25 The optical range finders 3a and 3b measure a distance from the paste

discharge port which corresponds to the front end (or lower end) of each nozzle 1a and 1b and a surface of the substrate 7 depending on a non-conjunction triangulation.

That is, these optical range finders 3a and 3b have the same formation.

5 Thus, one range finder 3a will now be explained with reference to Figure 2. A lower portion of the optical range finder 3a is cut off in a triangle. A luminous element is installed in one side of two curved surface facing this cutoff part, while a light receiving element is installed in the other side thereof. The nozzle support unit 12a is installed in a front end of the paste syringe 2a to be extended up to a
10 lower portion of the cutoff part of the optical range finder 3a, and the nozzle 1a is installed at a lower surface of the front end part. The luminous element installed in the cutoff part of the optical range finder 3a, as indicated by one-dot chain line in the drawing, irradiates light on an adjacent area directly under the paste discharge port of the nozzle 1 and the light receiving element then receives reflected light
15 from the irradiated area. When a distance between the paste discharge port of the nozzle 1a and the substrate 7 (refer to Figure 1) arranged at a bottom side of the discharge port is within a predetermined range, a relation between positions where the nozzle 1a and the optical range finder 3a are aligned is established such that the light from the luminous element can be received in the light receiving element.
20 When the distance (facing interval) between the paste discharge port of the nozzle 1a and the substrate 7 is changed, a position of the irradiation point (hereinafter, referred to as a measurement point) of the light from the luminous element on the substrate 7 is changed in the adjacent area directly under the discharge port to thereby fluctuate a receiving state of the light receiving element, which results in
25 enabling a measurement for the distance between the paste discharge port of the

nozzle 1a and the substrate 7.

As will be explained later, while the substrate 7 moves in the X-axis and Y-axis directions to form a paste pattern, when the irradiation point (hereinafter, referred to as a measurement point) of the light from the luminous element on the substrate 7 crosses the paste pattern having already formed, a measured value for the distance between the paste discharge port of each nozzle 1a and 1b and the surface of the substrate 7 by the optical range finders 3a and 3b may have error as much as a thickness of the paste pattern. Accordingly, in order to prevent the measured point from crossing the paste pattern as rare as possible, the measured point can be assigned in a position deviated from a paste drop point (hereinafter, referred to as a drawing point) onto the substrate 7 through the nozzles 1a and 1b toward a curved direction with respect to the X-axis and the Y-axis.

In addition, when the paste in the paste syringes 2a and 2b is completely used, the nozzle exchange is carried out. The nozzles are installed such that the drawing point can be equivalent to a designated position for drawing the paste thereon. However, the positions of the nozzles may be changed before or after the nozzle exchange due to such non-uniform characteristics of installation precision of the paste syringes 2a and 2b, the nozzle support units 12a and 12b, or the nozzles 1a and 1b. However, as shown in Figure 2, when the drawing point is positioned within an allowable range (ΔX and ΔY) having a preset size based on the designated position, the nozzles 1a and 1b are considered as being normally installed. Here, ΔX denotes a width of the X-axis direction of the allowable range, while ΔY denotes a width of the Y-axis direction thereof. The image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b are used when identifying the position of each nozzle 1a

and 1b after being exchanged or when measuring an interval of these nozzles 1a and 1b.

When data is applied from each optical range finder 3a and 3b or each image identifying camera 11a and 11b, the main and auxiliary controllers 14a and 14b drive the servomotors 21a through 21e. Data indicating a driving condition of each motor 21a through 21e are fed back to both the controllers 14a and 14b from each encoder installed in these servomotors 21a through 21e.

In such construction, when the square substrate 7 is laid on the sucking base 13, the sucking base 13 absorbs the substrate 7 in a vacuum state and fixes it. According to rotation of the θ -axis table 8, each line of the substrate 7 is set to be parallel to the X-axis and the Y-axis, respectively. Afterwards, on the basis of the result measured by the optical range finders 3a and 3b, the servomotors 21c and 21d are driven, and accordingly the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b move toward a lower side and make the nozzles 1a and 1b move downwardly from an upper side of the substrate 7 until the distance between the paste discharge port of each nozzle 1a and 1b and the surface of the substrate 7 corresponds to a designated distance.

Thereafter, the paste supplied from the paste syringes 2a and 2b through the nozzle support units 12a and 12b is discharged onto the substrate 7 through the paste discharge port of each nozzle 1a and 1b. In addition to this, the Y-axis table 6 and the θ -axis table 8 appropriately move by driving the servomotors 21a and 21b (See Figure 3). As a result, the paste is drawn in a desired pattern simultaneously at two parts on the substrate 7. Since the pattern to desirably form can be converted into the distance of each direction of the X-axis and the Y-axis, when data for forming the pattern with the desired shape is inputted from a

keyboard 19, the main controller 14a converts the inputted data into the number of pulses sent to the servomotors 21a and 21b, and thus outputs a command. As a result, the patterning process is automatically performed.

Figure 3 is a block diagram illustrating one of both controllers 14a and 14b shown in Figure 1 in detail, and parts corresponding to those in Figure 1 use the same reference symbols.

As shown in the drawing, 14a-1 and 14b-1 denote microcomputers provided with such ROM for storing a processing program, RAM for memorizing various data, or CPU for operating various data, 14a-2 and 14b-2 denote external interfaces connected to external devices such as the image processor 15 or the optical range finders 3a and 3b and simultaneously connecting both controllers 14a and 14b to each other, 14a-3 and 14b-3 denote motor controllers of each servomotor 21a through 21e, 14a-4 denotes an X-axis driver for driving the servomotor 21a, 14a-5 denotes a Y-axis driver for driving the servomotor 21b, 14a-6 denotes a θ -axis driver for driving the servomotor 21e, 14b-4 and 14b-5 denote Z-axis drivers for driving the servomotors 21c and 21d, and E denotes an encoder.

The RAM installed in each microcomputer 14a-1 and 14b-1 stores various data indicating a paste pattern or a nozzle exchange inputted from the keyboard 19, data measured by the optical range finders 3a and 3b, and various data generated by a processing of the microcomputers 14a-1 and 14b-1.

Next, processing operations of both controllers 14a and 14b when drawing a paste pattern will now be explained. In addition, in flow charts shown in Figure 4 and Figures thereafter, a reference symbol S denotes a step. In each drawing, if the flow of the process is a single flow, the main controller 14a performs the

process. Contrarily, if the flow of the process is a double flow, the process positioned on the left side of the flow chart is performed by the main controller 14a and those on the right side of the flow chart is performed by the auxiliary controller 14b.

5 As illustrated in Figure 4, when power is applied (S100), an initial establishment of the paste applicator is carried out (S200). In this initial establishment, as illustrated in Figure 5, the Y-axis table 6 and the θ -axis table 8 are positioned at predetermined original point positions (S211), data for a paste pattern is set, namely, data NZL-N for a nozzle to be used, data for a discharge pressure of the paste and the height of the nozzle which are related to the height
10 of the paste pattern data for a position to initiate the paste discharge, and data for a position with respect to a relation between the paste pattern and the substrate 7 are established. Such data is stored in the RAM installed in the main controller 14a (S212), and then data for a termination point of the paste discharge is
15 established (S213). Afterwards, the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b are positioned at predetermined original point positions (S221), and finally the data with respect to the paste pattern having established in S212 is moved and stored from the RAM mounted in the main controller 14a to the RAM mounted in the auxiliary controller
14b (S222). Here, the keyboard 19 is used to input the data for those
20 establishments. Furthermore, when the data NZL-N of the nozzle to be used is 1, only the nozzle 1a is used and the nozzle 1b is not used for drawing the paste pattern.

 After completing these initial establishments, as illustrated in Figure 4, the substrate 7 for drawing the paste pattern thereon is mounted on the sucking base
25 13 to be absorbed and fixed thereto, and a process for determining a position of

the substrate 7 is performed (S400).

S400 will now be explained with reference to Figure 6.

As illustrated in Figure 6, first, a position determining mark having previously provided to the substrate 7 mounted on the sucking base 13 is
5 photographed by the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b (S401), and a central position of the position determining mark within a visual field of the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b is obtained by an image processing (S402). Afterwards, a misalignment amount between the center of the visual field and the central position of the position determining mark is yielded (S403), and using this
10 misalignment amount, each movement amount of the Y-axis table 6 and the θ -axis table 8 required for moving the substrate 7 to a desired position is calculated (S404). Thereafter, this movement amount calculated is converted into an operation amount of the servomotors 21a, 21b and 21e (S405), and thus the servomotors 21a, 21b and 21e are driven by this operation amount. As a result,
15 each table 6 and 8 move and thus the substrate 7 can move to the desired position (S406).

When the movement of the substrate 7 is completed, the position determining mark on the substrate 7 is re-photographed by the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b, and a center (central position) of the position determining
20 mark within the visual field of the cameras 11a and 11b is measured (S407). A misalignment between the center of the visual field and the mark center is measured to be stored in the RAM of the microcomputer 14a as a misalignment amount of the position of the substrate 7 (S408). Moreover, it is checked whether the position misalignment amount is within the allowable range having explained in
25 Figure 2, for instance, within a range of a value under one second (S409). When it

is checked that the misalignment amount is within this range, the process of S400 is completed. when it is checked that the misalignment amount is over the range, series of such processes are re-performed by moving back to S404 for determining the position of the substrate 7. Thereafter, those processes are
5 repeatedly carried out until the position misalignment amount of the substrate 7 gets within the range of the value.

Accordingly, the position of the substrate 7 can be determined such that the drawing point on the substrate 7 at which a drawing is desirably initiated is prevented from being deviated from a predetermined range directly under the
10 paste discharge port of each nozzle 1a and 1b.

As still illustrated in Figure 4, when S400 is completed, a process for forming a paste film (S500) is carried out, which will now be explained with reference to Figure 7.

As illustrated in Figure 7, the main controller 14a moves the substrate 7
15 into a position where the drawing is initiated (S511). The substrate 7 has already been located at the desired position according to the process for determining the position of the substrate 7 (S400 in Figure 4) having mentioned, thereby moving the substrate 7 into the drawing initiation point with high precision in this S511. The auxiliary controller 14b, on the other hand, moves the nozzles 1a and 1b into
20 a position having a predetermined height (S521). That is, the facing interval (distance) from the paste discharge port of the nozzles 1a and 1b to the surface of the substrate 7 is set to be the same as the thickness of the paste film to be formed. When it is notified that the movement of the nozzles 1a and 1b are completed (S522), the main controller 14a moves back to S512 to initiate a
25 movement of a pattern of the substrate 7 from the drawing initiation point, and thus

moves back to S513 in which the nozzles 1a and 1b initiate the paste discharge. Simultaneously, the auxiliary controller 14b measures concavo-convex on the surface of the substrate 7 by inputting the data of the facing interval (distance) between the paste discharge port of each nozzle 1a and 1b and the substrate 7
5 measured by the optical range finders 3a and 3b (S523). Furthermore, on the basis of this measured data, whether the aforementioned measurement point of the optical range finders 3a and 3b passes the paste film is decided (S524). For instance, when the measured data of the optical range finders 3a and 3b is over a designated allowable value for the facing interval (distance), the measurement
10 point is decided to be positioned on the paste film.

When the measurement point of the optical range finders 3a and 3b is not positioned on the paste film, compensation data is created to move the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b on the basis of the measured data (S525). The Z-axis tables 4a and 4b are driven so as to individually compensate the height of each nozzle 1a
15 and 1b, and accordingly the position of each nozzle 1a and 1b toward the Z-axis direction is maintained in a designated value (S526). Accordingly, when it is determined that the measurement point is passing the paste film, the height of each nozzle 1a and 1b is not compensated but maintained in the height before the determination. Furthermore, when the measurement point is passing the paste film
20 of a very small width, the concavo-convex of the substrate 7 is not changed, and accordingly a discharge shape of the paste has no change and a paste pattern with a desired thickness can be drawn even if the height of each nozzle 1a and 1b is not compensated.

Next, the main controller 14a decides whether the paste discharge is
25 terminated (S514). When the discharge is terminated (S515), the main controller

14a decides whether partial patterns are completely formed. When the partial patterns are not completely formed, the main controller 14a moves back to a process for initiating the paste discharge (S513). Conversely, when the partial patterns are completed, it is notified of lifting the nozzles 1a and 1b (S517), and
5 the auxiliary controller 14b performs the process for lifting the nozzles (S528). The main controller 14a further decides whether every patterns are completely formed on the substrate 7 (S518). When requiring further patterning, the main controller 14a moves back to the process for moving the substrate 7 into the drawing initiation point (S511) and the process for setting the height of each nozzle 1a and
10 1b (S521) to repeat such series of processes. When every patterns are completely formed, the process for forming the paste film (S500) is terminated.

That is, S514 denotes the process for deciding whether the patterning operation which is continuously ongoing reaches the termination point of the paste pattern. These termination points are not always termination points with respect to
15 the entire pattern with the desired shape to pattern on the substrate 7. That is, the entire pattern with the desired shape may be composed of a plurality of partial patterns divided into one another, and the partial patterns are composed of a discontinuous patterns. Accordingly, in S518 is performed a process for deciding whether the patterning operation reaches the termination point of every available
20 patterns. On the other hand, the auxiliary controller 14b always decides whether the nozzles 1a and 1b should be lifted to a position for shifting them away. When it is not required to lift the nozzles 1a and 1b, these series of processes are repeatedly performed by returning the process for measuring concavo-convex on the surface of the substrate (S523). As a result, when the measurement point
25 completely passes the paste film, the height of each nozzle is compensated again.

The process for forming the paste film (S500) will now be explained in detail.

First, the process for moving the nozzles in S521 illustrated in Figure 7 will now be explained with reference to Figure 8.

5 A value of the data NZL-N for the nozzles which has been established in S212 and stored in the RAM of the auxiliary controller 14b in S222 as illustrated in Figure 5 is compared and decided (S521a). When the data NZL-N is 2, the nozzles 1a and 1b sequentially move into a designated height (S521b and S521c). When the data NZL-N is not 2, only the nozzle 1a moves (S521c).

10 Next, the paste discharge process in the main controller 14a in S512 illustrated in Figure 7 will be explained with reference to Figure 9.

Even in the paste discharge process, first, similar to S521a in Figure 8, the value of the data NZL-N for the nozzles is compared and decided (S521a). When the data NZL-N is 2, the paste discharge is sequentially initiated from each paste
15 discharge port of the nozzles 1a and 1b (S512b and S512c). When the data NZL-N is not 2, the paste discharge is initiated only from the nozzle 1a (S512c).

Furthermore, the process for measuring concavo-convex on the surface of the substrate in the auxiliary controller 14b of S523 illustrated in Figure 7 will now be explained with reference to Figure 10.

20 First, similar to S521a in Figure 8 or S512a in Figure 9, the value of the data NZL-N for the nozzles is compared and decided (S523a). When the data NZL-N is 2, the facing interval (distance) between the nozzles 1a and 1b and the surface of the substrate 7 is sequentially measured by each optical range finder 3a and 3b (S523b and S523c). When the data NZL-N is not 2, only the facing interval
25 between the nozzle 1a and the surface of the substrate 7 is only measured by the

optical range finder 3a (S523c). This measured data is stored in the RAN installed in the microcomputer 14b-1 illustrated in Figure 3. Afterwards, the stored data is used for the further process for deciding whether the measurement point is on the paste film (S524) or the process for calculating Z-axis compensation data (S525).

5 That is, in the process for deciding whether the measurement point is on the paste film in S524, as illustrated in Figure 11, it is decided whether a measurement point of the nozzle 1a by the optical range finder 3a is passing the paste film which has already been drawn (S524a). When it is decided that the measurement point is passing it through, a flag NZLF1 is set to 1 (S524b). when it
10 is decided that the measurement point is not passing it through, the flag NZLF1 is set to 0 (zero) (S524c). Afterwards, it is decided whether a measurement point of the nozzle 1b by the optical range finder 3b is passing the paste film which has already been drawn (S524d). When it is decided that the measurement point is passing it through, a flag NZLF2 is set to 1 (S524e). When it is decided that the
15 measurement point is not passing it through, the flag NZLF2 is set to 0 (zero) (S524f). The results from these decisions may be used for a process for compensating a height of each nozzle to be explained later.

 Furthermore, in the process for calculating Z-axis compensation data in S525, as illustrated in Figure 12, the value of data NZL-N for the nozzles is
20 compared and decided (S525a). When the data NZL-N is 2, the compensation data for the nozzles 1a and 1b is sequentially calculated (S525b and S525c). When the data NZL-N is not 2, the compensation data only for the nozzle 1a is calculated (S525c). This measured data is stored in the RAM installed in the microcomputer 14b-1 illustrated in Figure 3.

25 Finally, the process for compensating the height of each nozzle in S526 of

Figure 7 will now be explained with reference to Figure 13.

First, it is decided whether the flag NZLF1 of the nozzle 1a side set by the deciding process of Figure 11 stands or not (S526a). When the flag NZLF1 does not exist, namely, when the measurement point is not passing the paste film, S526b is carried out, and the calculated data obtained by the process for calculating the compensation data of the nozzle 1a (S525c in Figure 12) is deciphered by the RAM of the microcomputer 14b-1, thereafter performing the compensation for the height of the nozzle 1a (S526b). When the flag NZLF1 does not stand, which means that the measurement point is passing the paste film, S526c is carried out. As a result, the height of the nozzle 1a is not compensation but maintained as the height before passing the paste film. Similarly, in S526c, it is decided whether the flag NZLF2 of the nozzle 1b side set by the deciding process of Figure 11 stands or not. When the flag NZLF2 is 0 (zero) which means that the measurement point is not passing the paste film, S526d is carried out, and the calculated data obtained by the process for calculating the compensation data of the nozzle 1b is deciphered from the RAM, thereafter performing the compensation for the height of the nozzle 1b. When the flag NZLF2 is 1 which means the measurement point is passing the paste film, the height of the nozzle 1b is not compensated but maintained as the height before passing the paste film, thereby completing the process.

Accordingly, when the process for compensating the nozzle height (S526) is completed, S527 in Figure 7 is carried out, and then whether there is a command to lift the nozzle up to the shift position. If there is not, it denotes that the paste pattern is being drawn. Therefore, the processes are repeated from the process for measuring concavo-convex on the surface of the substrate (S523).

However, as aforementioned, if the process for forming the paste film for the pattern with the desired shape (S500) is completed, it denotes the paste drawing for the substrate 7 which is being laid on the sucking base 13 is completed. Hence, S600 in Figure 4 is performed to carry the substrate 7 out of the sucking base 13, and then S700 is performed to decide whether all of the process would be stopped. That is, when the paste is drawn on plural sheets of substrates 7 with the same pattern, series of processes from S300 to S700 are repeatedly performed, thereby enabling massive production.

Thus, as aforementioned in those embodiments, the main controller 14a controls the relative position relation of a longitudinal direction between the substrate 7 and the nozzles 1a and 1b to manage the patterning position of the paste pattern, and the auxiliary controller 14b controls the height of each nozzle 1a and 1b to manage the height for drawing the paste. Although this auxiliary controller 14b divides functions of the main controller 14a which manages the whole processes, both the controllers 14a and 14b exchange a little amount of data for lifting the nozzles to thereby integrally control the series of processes of the drawing. In addition, because the auxiliary controller 14b does not perform any process other than the process for managing the height of each nozzle 1a and 1b, the auxiliary controller 14b can shorten the period for managing the height, that is, increase the number of times for measuring data by the optical range finders 3a and 3b and compensating the height. As a result, the height of each nozzle 1a and 1b can exactly be matched with the concavo-convex on the surface of the substrate. Therefore, the desired width or height of the paste pattern drawn by using each nozzle 1a and 1b can be achieved. Furthermore, because the measured data by the optical range finders 3a and 3b is stored in the storage unit

of the auxiliary controller 14b, the data exchange can be performed at a high speed to thus prevent a delay of the processes.

Moreover, the main controller 14a gets free from the height compensation of the nozzles 1a and 1b based on the result measured by the optical range finders 3a and 3b, and accordingly can draw fine patterns by minutely driving the Y-axis and θ -axis tables 6 and 8 on the basis of the data from the encoder E. As a result, the main controller 14a can minutely perform the management for the whole processes.

That is, in the embodiment, since such complicated control can be avoided by the division, the plurality of paste patterns with the desired shape can be simultaneously drawn with high precision at a high speed and reliability can be improved by the precise management.

Furthermore, in the aspect of the device fabrication, the soft for processing the main and auxiliary controllers 14a and 14b can be an independent module, development therefor and debug operation can be facilitated and high reliability can be ensured in the processing soft.

For instance, when forming a paste pattern with a sectional shape of an open bottle of which initiation point and termination point for the patterning are close to each other, a discharge pressure of the paste, positions of the Y-axis and θ -axis tables 6 and 8, heights of both nozzles 1a and 1b should be equal in the initiated point and the completed point of the pattern. However, in the embodiment, the main and auxiliary controllers 14a and 14b divide control processes therefore by an autonomous dispersion process, which leads to an easy drawing for the paste pattern in which the shapes of the initiated and completed points are not scattered.

5 In addition, in order to shorten a time taken by the process for initially setting the applicator (S200), various data required is previously stored in an external storage device 16 which is connected to the external interface 14a-2 and in which a storage unit such as IC card, floppy disc, hard disc, or the like is mounted. Such data may then be moved into the RAM of the microcomputers 14a-1 and 14b-1. Furthermore, the measured data is stored in the external storage device 16 to enlarge memory capacity of the RAM of the microcomputers 14a-1 and 14b-1, or data for the result from the decision is stored in the external storage device 16 to be used later.

10 Although the case of drawing a plurality of paste patterns on a sheet of substrate has been explained in the aforementioned embodiments, it may be possible that plural sheets of substrates are sucked in the sucking base to simultaneously draw the same paste pattern on each substrate. At this time, it is advantageous for an alignment of each substrate to control each driving of X-axis and Y-axis tables (not shown) of the Z-axis tables 4a and 4b. Likewise, if the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b have X-axis and Y-axis tables, the driving for these tables can be controlled according to the position deciding marks of substrates with a different size, and the image-identifying cameras 11a and 11b can be moved to predetermined places, thereby drawing the paste pattern on the substrates with various sizes.

[Effect of the Invention]

As described so far, in the paste applicator according to the present invention, the facing interval between the nozzles and the substrate can independently controlled by adjusting the relative positions of the longitudinal

direction between the nozzles and the substrate, whereby the paste pattern can be formed with making the plurality of nozzles follow the concavo-convex of the surface of the substrate which each nozzle faces. As a result, a plurality of paste patterns with the desired shape can simultaneously be drawn on the substrate with high precision at a high speed. Therefore, in the facilities for massive production, even if not making producing lines complicated or not enlarging the spaces for production facilities, productivity can easily be increased and product price can remarkably reduced.

10 [Brief Description for the Drawing]

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view showing an embodiment of the paste applicator according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing an arrangement relation between nozzles and optical range finders according to the same embodiment.

Figure 3 is a block diagram showing a detailed example for controllers according to the same embodiment.

Figure 4 is a flow chart showing an overall operation of the same embodiment.

Figure 5 is a flow chart showing an initial establishing process for a paste applicator in Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a flow chart showing a process for deciding a position of a substrate in Figure 4.

Figure 7 is a flow chart showing a process for forming a paste film in Figure 4.

Figure 8 is a flow chart showing a process for moving nozzles in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a flow chart showing a process for discharging a paste in

Figure 7.

Figure 10 is a flow chart showing a process for measuring concavo-convexes on a surface of a substrate in Figure 7.

Figure 11 is a flow chart showing a process for deciding whether to pass the paste film in Figure 7.

Figure 12 is a flow chart showing a process for calculating Z-axis compensation data in Figure 7.

Figure 13 is a flow chart showing a process for compensating nozzle height in Figure 7.

[Explanation for Reference Symbol]

1a, 1b	nozzle	15
2a, 2b	paste syringe	
3a, 3b	optical range finder	
4a, 4b	Z-axis table	
5	X-axis table	
6	Y-axis table	
7	substrate	
8	θ -axis table	20
9	mounting unit	
10	Z-axis table supporter	
11a, 11b	image-identifying camera	
12a, 12b	nozzle support unit	25
13	sucking base	

14a, 14b	controller
15	image processor
16	external storage device
17	image monitor
18	display
19	keyboard
21a~21e	servomotor

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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数3 OL (全14頁)

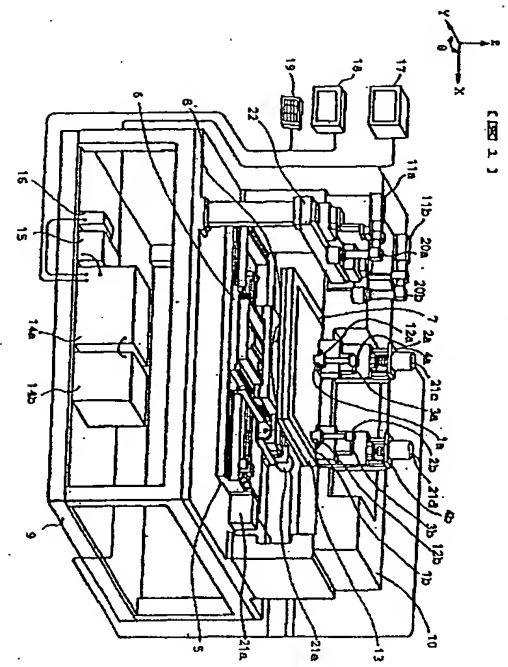
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(71) 出願人	日立テクノエンジニアリング株式会社 000233077
(72) 発明者	石田 茂 東京都千代田区神田駿河台4丁目3番地
(72) 発明者	茨城県電ヶ崎市向陽台5丁目2番 日立チ ノエンジニアリング株式会社開発研究所 内 三階 春夫 茨城県電ヶ崎市向陽台5丁目2番 日立チ ノエンジニアリング株式会社開発研究所 内
(74) 代理人	弁理士 武 顕次郎

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(57)【要約】

【目的】 ノズルと基板との対向間隔の制御を、両者を水平方向に相対移動させる制御に対し独立させることにより、基板上に所望形状の複数のペー스트パターンを同時に高精度に、しかも高速に塗布描画できるペースト塗布機を提供する。

【構成】 ノズル1a、1bと、これら各ノズルの吐出口と基板7の表面との対向間隔を個別に計測する光学式距離計3a、3bと、主制御装置14aに制御されて各ノズルと基板7とを水平方向に相対的に移動させるチャール6、8と、この相対的移动時における各距離計3a、3bのデータをを用いて各ノズルの吐出口と基板7の表面との対向間隔を個別に制御する副制御装置14bとを備えた。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 ノズルのペースト吐出口と対向するようにノズルと基板を水平方向において相対的に移動させつつ、ノズルと基板表面との対向間隔を計測し、該間隔が所望の範囲に収まるように制御する必要がある。そして、従来技術ではこのような動作の全てを1台の制御装置が管理しているが、制御が複雑なため描画速度が遅く、量産工場ではかかるペースト描画工程で生産速度や生産量が決定されてしまう傾向がある。したがって、生産性を高めるためには複数のペースト塗布機を設けなければならないが、その場合、生産ラインが複雑化し、また生産現場のスペース拡張も必要となるので、イニシャルコストが高くて製品価格の上昇を余儀なくされてしまう。

【0005】 それゆえ、本発明の目的は、かかる従来技術の課題を解消し、基板上に所望形状の複数のペーストパターンを同時に高精度に、しかも高速に塗布描画することができペースト塗布機を提供することにある。

【0006】

【課題を解決するための手段】 上記目的を達成するためには、本発明は、ノズルのペースト吐出口と対向するように基板をテーブル上に載置し、ペースト収納筒に収納したペーストを上記吐出口から上記基板上へ吐出させながら、該ノズルと該基板との相対位置関係を変化させ、該基板上に所望形状のペーストパターンを描画形成するペースト塗布機において、複数のノズルと、これらの各ノズルのペースト吐出口と上記基板表面との対向間隔を個別に計測する複数の計測手段と、上記各ノズルと上記基板との相対移動の制御手段と、この相対移動時における上記各ノズルのペースト吐出量を個別にペーストを吐出するものであるとともに、上記移動手段が、上記各ノズルと上記基板との水平方向の相対移動を同量かつ同時に往復させるものであることを特徴とするペースト塗布機。

【請求項2】 請求項1の記載において、上記複数のノズルが、上記テーブル上に載置した複数の基板に対して個別にペーストを吐出するものであるとともに、上記移動手段が、上記各ノズルと上記基板との水平方向の相対移動を同量かつ同時に往復させるものであることを特徴とするペースト塗布機。

【請求項3】 請求項1または2の記載において、上記制御手段が、上記各計測手段の計測データを記憶する記憶手段を備えていることを特徴とするペースト塗布機。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明は、テーブル上に載置した基板上に複数のノズルからペーストを吐出させながら該基板と該ノズルとを相対的に移動させることにより、該基板上に所望形状の複数のペーストパターンを同時に塗布描画するペースト塗布機に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 ペーストが収納されたペースト収納筒の先端に固定されたノズルに、テーブル上に載置された基板を対向させ、ノズルのペースト吐出口からペーストを吐出させながら該ノズルと該基板の少なくともいずれか一方を水平方向に移動させて相対位置関係を変化させることにより、基板上に所望のパターンでペーストを塗布する吐出描画技術を用いたペースト塗布機の一つが、例えば特開平2-52742号公報に記載されている。

【0003】 かかるペースト塗布機は、1つのノズルと、このノズルや基板の位置を制御する制御装置とを備えており、基板として使用する絶縁基板上にノズル先端のペースト吐出口から抵抗ペーストを吐出させることにより、この絶縁基板上に所望の抵抗ペーストパターンを形成していくというものである。

【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 ところで、ペーストパターンを塗布描画しようとする基板表面には通常、僅かなうねりがあるので、描画したペーストについて塗布箇所

4a-3、14b-3は各サーボモータ21a~21eのモータコントローラ、14a-4はサーボモータ21aを駆動するX軸ドライバ、14a-5はサーボモータ21bを駆動するY軸ドライバ、14a-6はサーボモータ21cを駆動するZ軸ドライバ、14b-4、14b-5はサーボモータ21c、21dを駆動するZ軸ドライバ、Eはエンコーダである。

【0022】キープ19からのペスト描画パターンやノズル交換などを示す各種データや、光学式距離計3a、3bで計測したデータや、マイコンコンピュータ14a-1、14b-1の処理で生成された各種データは、各マイコンコンピュータ14a-1、14b-1に内蔵されたRAMに格納される。

【0023】次に、ペスト塗布描画に際しての両制御装置14a、14bの処理動作について説明する。なお、図4以降のフローチャートにおいて、図中の符号Sは入出力の意味である。また、各図において実行される流れが単流であるものは主制御装置14aにおいて実行され、複流になっている場合は、左側の処理の流れは主制御装置14aにおいて実行され、右側の処理の流れは副制御装置14bにおいて実行されるものである。

【0024】図4において、電源が投入されると（ステップ100）、ペスト塗布機の初期設定が実行される（ステップ200）。この初期設定は、図5に示すように、Y軸サーボモータ6やZ軸サーボモータ8を予め決められた原点位置に位置決めし（ステップ211）、ペストパターンについてデータの設定、即ち、使用するノズルのデータ（NZL-N）や、ペストパターンの高さに関するペストの吐出圧力およびノズルの高さデータの吐出位置データの設定、即ち、使用するノズルの吐出位置データを設定し（ステップ212）、ペストの吐出位置データを設定し（ステップ213）、Z軸サーボモータ4a、4bを予め決められた原点位置に位置決めし（ステップ221）、ステップ212で設定されたペストパターンについてのデータを主制御装置14a内蔵のRAMから副制御装置14b内蔵のRAMに移して格納する処理（ステップ222）を行うというものであり、これらの設定のためのデータ入力はキープ19から行われる。なお、使用するノズルのデータNZL-Nが1の場合は、ノズル1aのみ使用し、ノズル1bによるペストパターンの塗布描画は行われない。

【0025】以上の初期設定処理が終わると、図4における、ペストパターンを描画するための基板7を吸着台13上に搭載して吸着保持させ（ステップ300）、基板位置決め処理（ステップ400）を行う。

【0026】以下、図6により、このステップ400について詳細に説明する。

【0027】図6において、まず、吸着台13に搭載さ

きなどによって、ノズル交換の前と後でノズル位置が変わる点がある。しかし、図2に示すように、塗布点を設定位置を中心とする大きさの許容範囲（ ΔX 、 ΔY ）内にあるとき、ノズル1a（1b）は正常に取り付けられているものとする。但し、 ΔX は許容範囲のX軸方向の幅、 ΔY は同じくY軸方向の幅である。そして、画像認識カメラ11a、11bはそれぞれ、ノズル1a、1bの交換後の位置検出や、これらのノズル1a、1bの間隔を計測することなどに使用される。

【0017】主および副制御装置14a、14bはそれぞれ、光学式距離計3a、3bや画像認識カメラ11a、11bからのデータが供給されると、これらに基きサーボモータ21a~21eを駆動する。また、これらのサーボモータに設けたエンコーダから、各モータ21a~21eの駆動状況についてのデータが両制御装置14a、14bにフィードバックされる。

【0018】かかる構成において、方形状をなす基板7が吸着台13上に置かれると、吸着台13は基板7を真空中吸着して固定保持する。そして、Z軸サーボモータ8を回転させることにより、基板7の各辺がX軸とY軸のそれぞれに平行となるように設定される。しかる後、光学式距離計3a、3bの測定結果をもとにサーボモータ21c、21dが駆動制御されることにより、Z軸サーボモータ4a、4bが下方に移動し、ノズル1a、1bのペスト吐出口と基板7の表面との間の距離が規定の距離になるまで、これらのノズル1a、1bを基板7の上から下降させる。

【0019】その後、ペスト収納筒2a、2bからノズル支持具12a、12bを介して供給されるペストがノズル1a、1bのペスト吐出口から基板7上へ吐出され、これとともに、サーボモータ21a、21b（図3参照）の駆動制御によってY軸サーボモータ6とZ軸サーボモータ8が適宜移動し、これによって基板7上の2箇所に同時に所望形状のパターンが塗布される。形成しようとするペストパターンはX、Y各軸方向の距離で換算できるので、所望形状のパターンを形成するためのデータをキープ19から入力すると、主制御装置14aはこのデータをサーボモータ21a、21bに与え、ペストパターンに変換して命令を出し、描画が自動的に行われる。

【0020】図3は図1における両制御装置14a、14bの一例を示すブロック図であって、図1と対応する部分には同一符号が付してある。

【0021】同図において、14a-1、14b-1は、処理プログラムを格納しているROMや各種データを記憶するRAMや各種データの演算を行うCPUなどを内蔵したマイコンコンピュータ、14a-2、14b-2は、画像処理装置15あるいは光学式距離計3a、3bといった外部装置が接続されるとともに両制御装置14a、14b間を接続する外部インターフェース、150

ト吐出口と基板7との対向間隔の実測データを入力して該基板7の表面のうねりを測定し(ステップ523)、また、この実測データに基づいて、光学式距離計3a、3bの前述した計測点がベースト膜上を横切っているか否かの判定が行われる(ステップ524)。例えば、光学式距離計3a、3bの実測データが、設定した対向間隔の許容値を外れたような場合には、計測点がベースト膜上にあると判定される。

【0032】光学式距離計3a、3bの計測点がベースト膜上にないとき、実測データを基に2軸データ4a、4bを移動させるための補正データを算出する(ステップ525)。そして、2軸データ4a、4bを駆動してノズル1a、1bの高さを個別に補正し、2軸方向でのノズル1a、1bの位置を設定値に維持する(ステップ526)。これに対し、計測点がベースト膜上を通過中と判定された場合には、ノズル1a、1bの高さを補正は行わず、判定前の高さに保持しておく。なお、基板7のうねりには殆ど変化がないので、ノズル1a、1bの高さ補正を行わなくともベーストの吐出形状に変化はなく、所望の厚さのベーストパターンを描くことができる。

【0033】次に、主制御装置14aにおいては、ベーストの吐出を終了させるか否かを判定し(ステップ514)、吐出を終了させた場合(ステップ515)は、ステップ516において、部分パターンの形成が終了したか否かを判定する。そして、部分パターンが完了していなければ、ベーストの吐出を開始させる処理(ステップ513)へ戻るが、部分パターンが完了した場合は、ノズル1aはノズル上昇処理(ステップ528)を行う。主制御装置14aではさらに、基板7上の全パターンの形成が終了したか否かの判定を行い(ステップ518)、まだ描画する必要があれば、基板7を塗布開始位置へ移動させる処理(ステップ511)およびノズル1a、1bの高さを設定する処理(ステップ521)へ戻って以上の一連の工程を繰り返し、全パターンが完了した場合は、このベースト膜形成工程(ステップ500)を終了する。

【0034】即ち、ステップ514は、それまで連続して描画していたベーストパターンの終了点に達したかを判定する処理動作であって、これらの終了点は必ずしも基板7に描画する所望形状全体のパターンの終了点ではない。つまり、所望形状全体のパターンは複数の互いに分かれた部分パターンからなる場合もあり、また部分パターンが不連続なパターンからなる場合もあるで、それらをすべて含む全パターンの終了点に達したか否かの判定はステップ518で行うようになっている。一方、副制御装置14bでは、ノズル1a、1bを追避位置まで上昇させるか否かの判断(ステップ527)が

れた基板7に予め付されている位置決め用マークを画像認識カメラ11a、11bで撮影し(ステップ401)、画像認識カメラ11a、11bの視野内での位置決め用マークの重心位置を画像処理で求める(ステップ402)。そして、この視野の中心と位置決め用マークの重心位置とのずれ量を算出し(ステップ403)、このずれ量を用いて、基板7を所望位置に移動させるための必要なY軸データおよびθ軸データ8の移動量を算出する(ステップ404)。そして、算出されたこれらの移動量をサーボモータ21a、21b、21eの検算に換算し(ステップ405)、かかる操作量に応じ、サーボモータ21a、21b、21eを駆動することにより、各サーボモータ6、8が移動して基板7が所望位置の方へ移動する(ステップ406)。

【0028】こうして移動が終了したなら、再び基板7上の位置決め用マークを画像認識カメラ11a、11bで撮影して、その視野内での位置決め用マークの中心(重心位置)を計測し(ステップ407)、視野の中心とマーク中心との偏差を求め、基板7の位置ずれ量としてマーク位置とマーク14aのRAMに格納する(ステップ408)。そして、位置ずれ量が図2で説明した許容範囲の例えば1/2以下の値の範囲内にあるか否かを確認する(ステップ409)。この範囲内であれば、ステップ400の処理が終了したことになる。この範囲外であれば、ステップ404に戻って以上の一連の処理を再び行い、基板7の位置ずれ量が上記値の範囲内に入らないうちに、基板7が位置決めされたことになる。

【0029】これにより、基板7上のこれから塗布を開始しようとする所望の塗布点が、ノズル1a、1bのベースト吐出口の真下より所定範囲を越えて外れることのないように、基板7が位置決めされたことになる。

【0030】再び図4において、ステップ400の処理が終了すると、次に、ステップ500のベースト膜形成処理に移る。これを、以下、図7で説明する。

【0031】図7において、主制御装置14a側では、まず、塗布開始位置へ基板7を移動させる(ステップ511)。基板7は先に説明した基板位置決め処理(図4の入ステップ400)で所望位置に位置決めされているので、この入ステップ511では基板7を精度良く塗布開始位置に移動させることができる。一方、副制御装置14b側では、ノズル1a、1bを設定された高さ位置に移動する(ステップ521)。即ち、ノズル1a、1bのベースト吐出口から基板7の表面までの対向間隔が、形成するベースト膜の厚みに等しくなるように設定する。ノズル1a、1bの移動の完了通知(ステップ522)を受けて、主制御装置14a側では入ステップ512に移り、塗布開始位置から基板7の移動を開始し、ノズル1a、1bがベーストの吐出を開始する入ステップ513に移動する。同時に、副制御装置14b側では、光学式距離計3a、3bによるノズル1a、1bのベースト

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式距離計 3 b によるノズル 1 b の計測点が既に描いたハースト膜上を通過中か否かを判定し (ステップ 5 2 4 d)、通過中ならラジアン Z L F 2 に 1 を設定し (ステップ 5 2 4 e)、通過中でなければラジアン Z L F 2 に 0 を設定する (ステップ 5 2 4 f)。この判定結果は、

【0043】また、入ツツ525におけるZ軸補正データ算出処理では、図12に示すように、まず、使用ノアルに関するデータNZL-Nの値を比較判定し（入ツツ525a）、データNZL-Nが2の場合には、ノアルb、1aの補正データを順次算出し（入ツツ525b、入ツツ525c）、データNZL-Nが2でない場合には、ノアル1aだけについて補正データを算出する（入ツツ525c）。この算出データは、図3に示したエタコソエータ14b-1内蔵のRAM

に格納しておく。
【0044】最後に、図7の入チャツ526のノズル高さ補正処理について、図13を参照しつつ説明する。

【0045】まず、図11の判定処理で設定されたノズル1A側のフラグNZLF1が立上っているかどうかを判定し、フラグNZLF1が立上っていないとき、つまり計測点がノズル1A膜上を通過していないときには、スチッフ526bに進んで、ノズル1Aの補正処理（図12のスチッフ525c）により求めた算出処理（図12のスチッフ525c）により求めたおいた算出データをイタココンピュータ14b-1のRAMから読み出して膜ノズル1Aの高さ補正を行う（スチッフ526b）。また、フラグNZLF1が立上っている場合は、計測点がノズル1A膜上を通過中なのでスチッフ526cに飛び、よってノズル1Aの高さは補正されず通過前の高さが維持される。同様に、スチッフ

常になされており、上昇させる必要がなければ基板表面
うねり計測処理（スチツフ523）へ戻って上述した一
連の処理を繰り返すので、計測点がペースト膜上を通過
し終われば、スリ高さの補正工程が再開される。
【0035】以下、上述したペースト膜形成工程（スチ
ツフ500）における各処理について詳細に説明する。

【0036】まず、図7の入ツプ521のノアル移動処理について、図8を参照しつつ説明する。

【0037】始めに、図5のステップ212で設定されたステップ222で副制御装置14bのRAMに格納済みの使用ノアルに関するチータNZL-Nの値を比較判定し(ステップ521a)、チータNZL-Nが2の場合には、ノアル1b、1aを設定された高さに順次移動させ(ステップ521b、ステップ521c)、チータNZL-Nが2でない場合には、ノアル1aのみの移動を行う(ステップ521c)。

【0038】次に、図7の入ツプ512の主制御装置14aにおけるバースト吐出処理について、図9を参照しつつ説明する。

【0039】ハスト吐処理でも、まず、図8のステップ521aと同様に、使用ノズルに関するデータNZL-Nの値を比較判定し(ステップ512a)、データNZL-Nが2の場合には、ノズル1b、1aそれぞれハスト吐出口からハストの吐出を順次開始し(ステップ512b、ステップ512c)、データNZL-Nが2でない場合には、ノズル1aのみからハストの吐出を開始する(ステップ512c)。

【0040】さらに、図7のステップ523の制御御終

層 14b における基板表面うねり計測処理について、図 10 を参照しつつ説明する。

【0041】まず、図8のステップ521aや図9のステップ512aと同様に、使用ノアルに関するデータNZL-Nの値を比較判定し（ステップ523a）、データNZL-Nが2の場合には、ノアルb、1aと基板7の表面との対向間隔をそれぞれ、光學式距離計3b、3aによって順次計測し（ステップ523b、ステップ523c）、データNZL-Nが2でない場合には、ノアルaと基板7の表面との対向間隔のみを光學式距離計3aにて計測する（ステップ523c）。この計測ステップは、図3に示したマイクロコンピュータ14b-1

座標上のA点に格納しておいて、引き続き行われるベクトル上とか否かの判定処理（スライツ524）やZ軸補正データ算出処理（スライツ525）などに使用する。

【0042】即ち、スライツ524におけるベクトル上とか否かの判定処理では、図11に示すように、まず、光学式距離計3aによるノズル1a側の計測点が既に描いたベクトル上を通過中か否かを判定し（スライツ524a）、通過中ならスライツ524bに1を設定し（スライツ524b）、通過中でなければスライツ524cに0を設定する（スライツ524c）。次に、光学

【0048】このように上記実施例では、基板7とノズル1a、1bとの水平方向の相対位置関係を制御して、一ストパターンの描画位置を管理する主制御装置14aと、ノズル1a、1bの高さを制御してペーストの塗布

できる。そして、副制御装置 14b がノアル 1a、1b の高さ管理以外の処理を負擔しないことから、この高さ管理周期を短くすること、つまり光式距離計 3a、3b による計測データと高さ補正の回数を多くすることができて、これにより、ノアル 1a、1b の高さをそれぞれ

【0049】一方、主制御装置14aについてみれば、光学式距離計3a、3bの測定結果などに基づく、エン1a、1bの高さ補正の処理から解放されるので、エン1a、1bのチャータを基にY、 θ 軸チャトル6、8を細かく駆動させて微細なチャータが描けるようになり、全体を統括するための管理もてまめに実行できるようにな

【0051】さらに基盤製作面においても、主制御装置14aと副制御装置14bの処理ソフトは独立したモジュールとすることができ、開発が容易で、デバッグ作業も容易となり、処理ソフト面での高信頼性も確保できる。

【0052】例えば、描画の開始位置と終了位置とが接した開いた瓶の断面形状のベースパターンを形成する場合、該パターンの始端と終端において、ベースの吐出圧力や、Y、θ軸方向アル6、8の位置や、図1a、1bの高さなどを一致させる必要があるが、上記実施例では、主および副御装器14a、14bが自

【0053】なお、發布機初期設定処理（ステップ20）での所要時間の短縮化を図るために、外部インターフェイスやハードディスクなどの記憶手段が装填される外部記憶装置16に、必要な各種データを格納しておき、これらのデータをマイクロコンピュータ14-1、14-1のRAMに移すようにしても良い。また、計測したデータを外部記憶装置16に格納してマイクロコンピュータ14-1、14-1のRAMについてのAMの記憶容量拡大化を図ったり、判定結果についてのデータを外部記憶装置16に格納して後日利用できるようにしても良い。

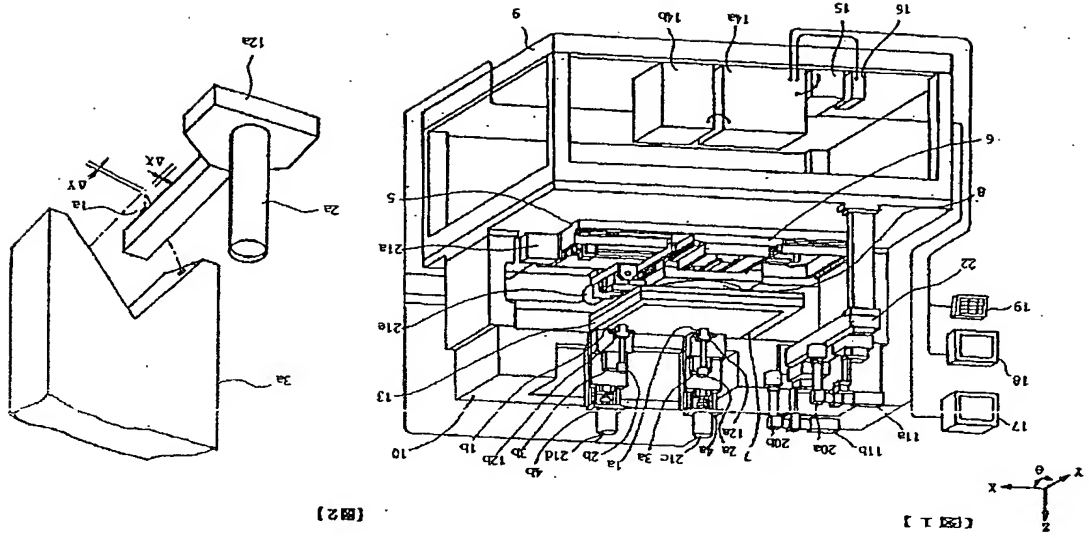
好都合である。また、画像認識カメラ11a、11bがX、Y軸サーボを備えていると、大きさの異なる基板の位置決め用ワークに従ってこれらのサーボを駆動制御し、所定の場所に画像認識カメラ11a、11bを移動させることができるので、各種の大きさの基板にペーパーパターンを描画することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】
 【図１】本発明によるベース入塗布機の一実施例を示す縦断斜視図である。
 【図２】同実施例のノズルと光字式距離計との配置関係を示す斜視図である。

【図3】同実施例の制御装置の一具体例を示すブロック図である。

【図4】同実施例の全体動作を示すフローチャートである。

【図5】図4におけるベース塗布機の初期設定工程を示すフローチャートである。



【図1】

【図2】

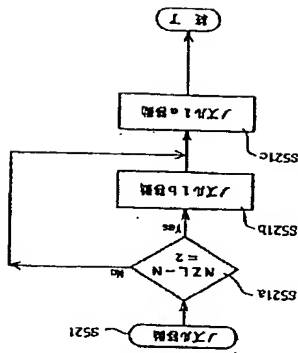
- 2 a, 2 b ベース収納筒
1 a, 1 b ノズル
【符号の説明】
一チャートである。
【図13】図7におけるノズル高さ補正処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図12】図7におけるZ軸補正データ算出処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図11】図7におけるベース膜上通過判定処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図10】図7における基板表面うねり計測処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図9】図7におけるベース吐出処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図8】図7におけるノズル移動処理を示すフロートチャートである。
【図7】図4におけるベース膜形成工程を示すフロートチャートである。
【図6】図4における基板位置決め工程を示すフロートチャートである。

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(8)

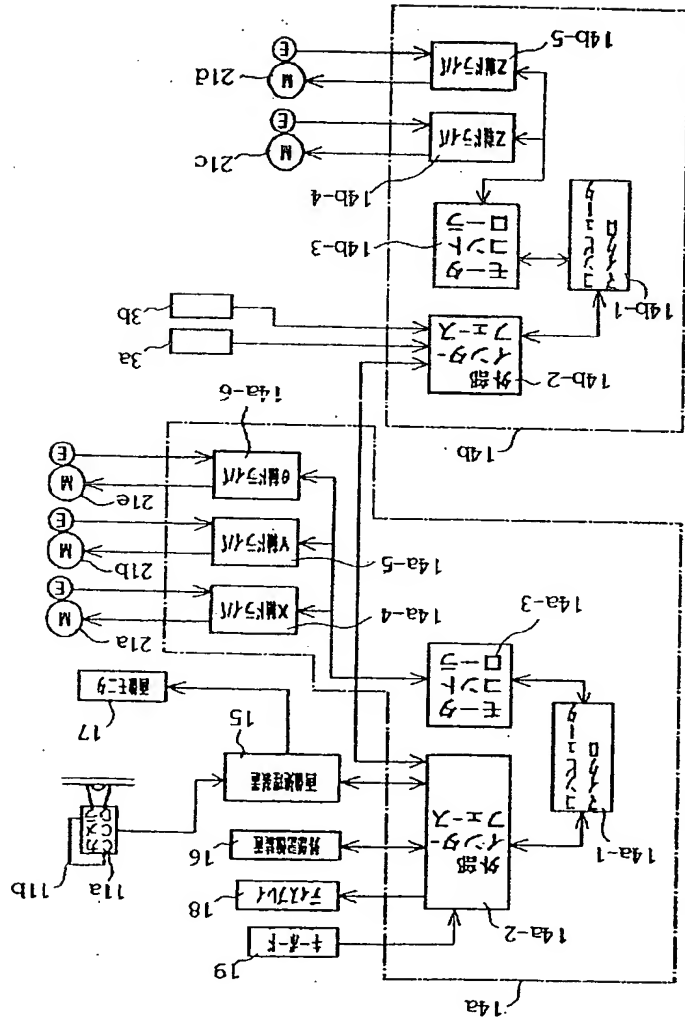
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【図8】



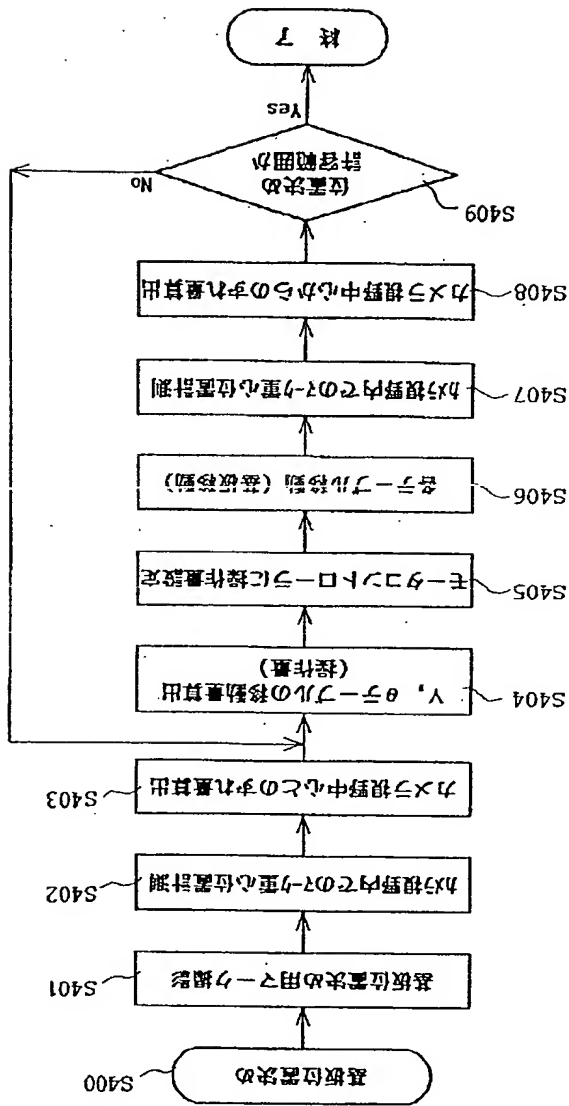
【図8】

【図3】



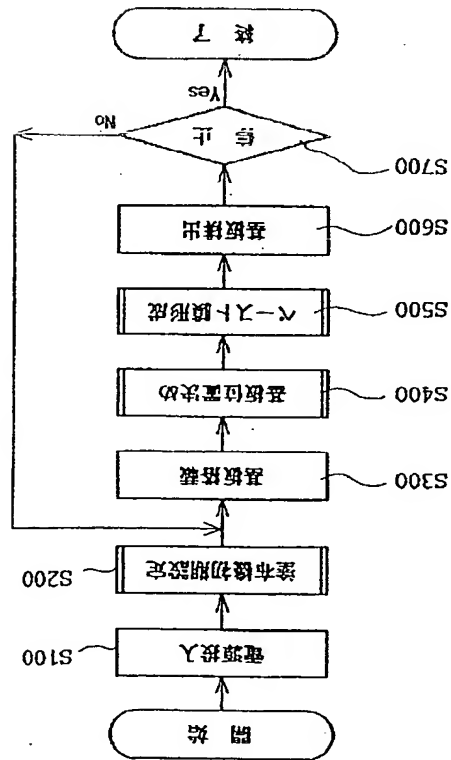
【図3】

【図6】



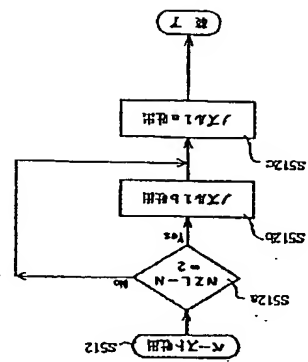
【図6】

【図4】

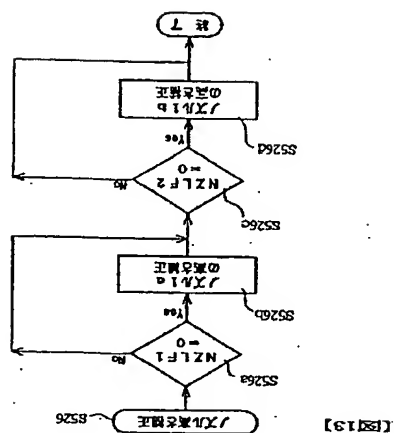


【図4】

【図9】

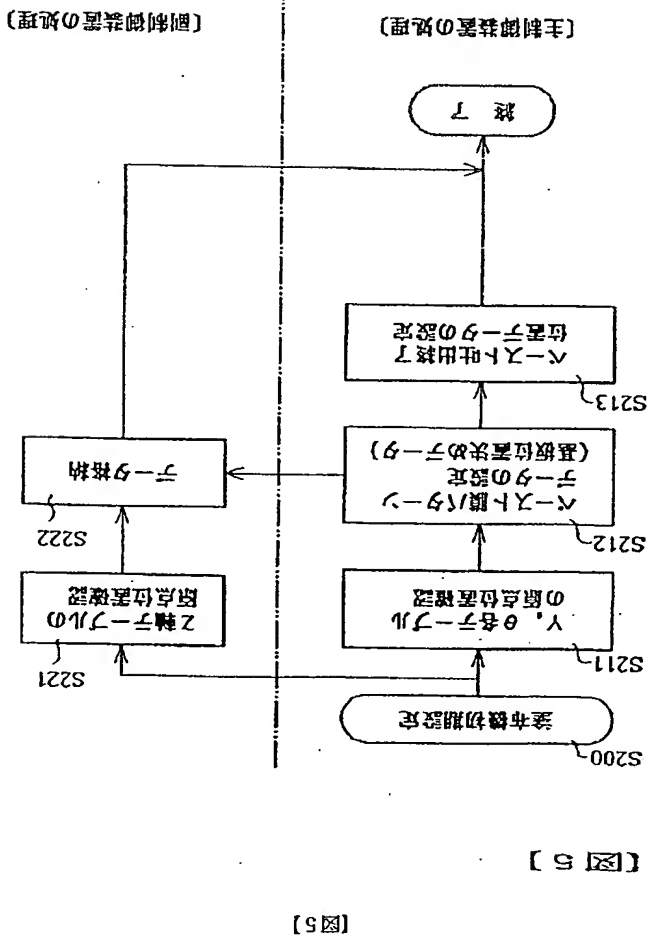


【図9】

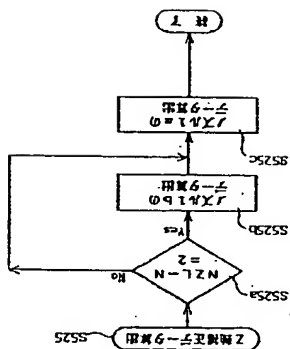


【618】

【 3 1 3 】

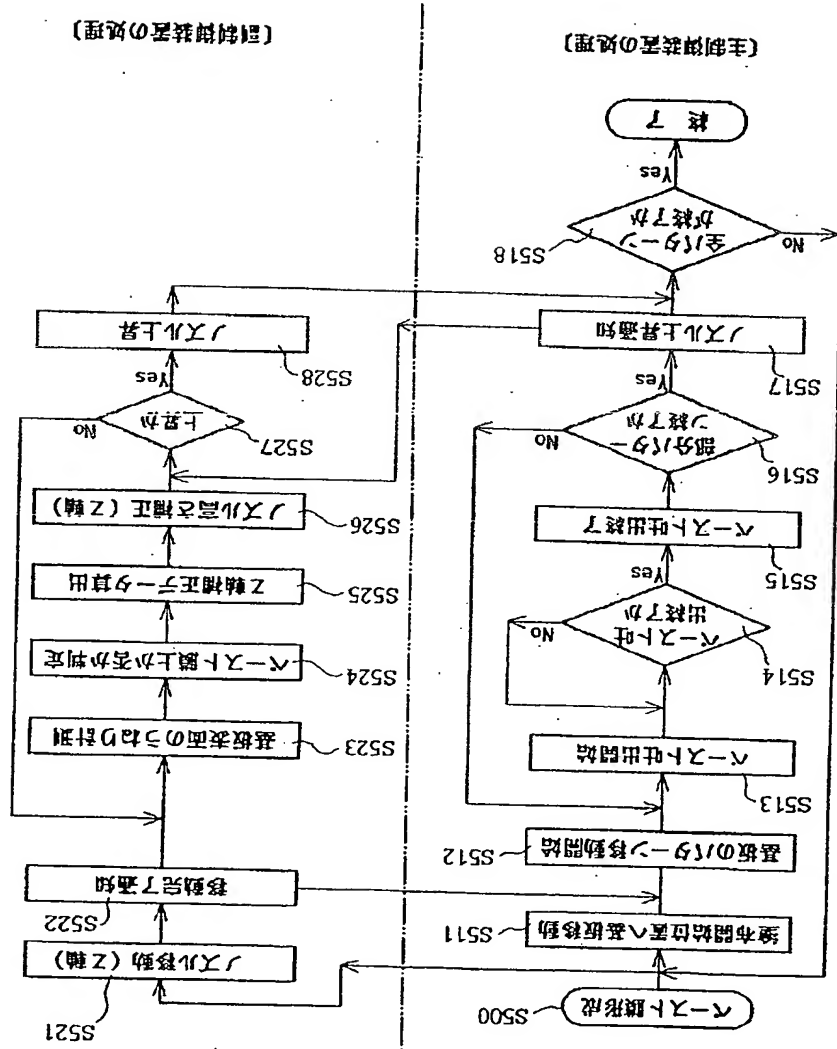


【 ㉔ 】



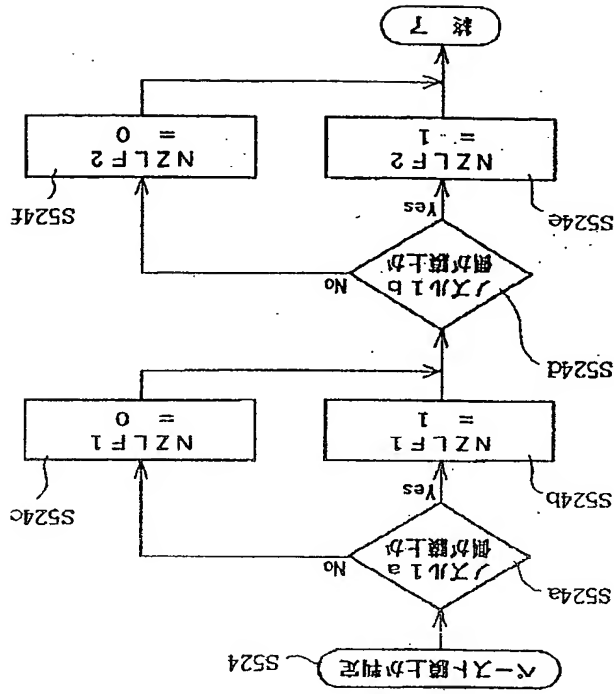
(218)

【21図】



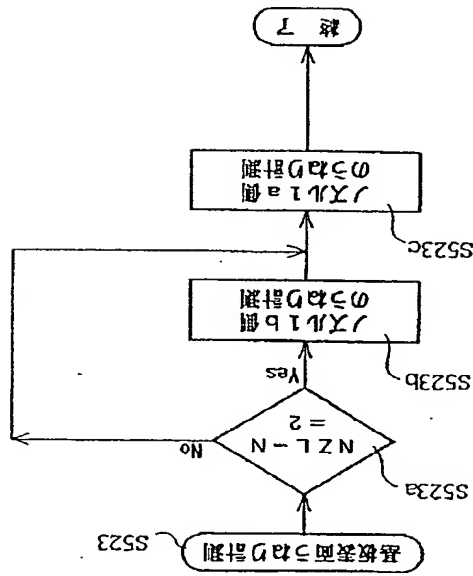
【図 7】

【図 7】



【図11】

【図11】



【図10】

【図10】

フロントページの続き

(72)発明者 米田 福男

茨城県竜ヶ崎市向陽台5丁目2番 日立テ

クノエンジニアリング株式会社開発研究所

内

(72)発明者 八幡 聡

茨城県竜ヶ崎市向陽台5丁目2番 日立テ

クノエンジニアリング株式会社開発研究所

内

(72)発明者 川原 幸宏

茨城県竜ヶ崎市向陽台5丁目2番 日立テ

クノエンジニアリング株式会社開発研究所

内

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